

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PUT THE DECENNIAL CENSUS BACK ON TRACK

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in opposition to the plan of the Census Bureau to use sampling techniques in the Decennial Census.

The situation is clear: we must abide by the Constitution as we have in every census for over 200 years. As we all know, Article I Section II says that "an actual enumeration" must be done every 10 years. Now, for the first time in our history, this is not good enough. Some feel that counting part of the population and guesstimating the rest is better than actually counting the population head by head, as the Constitution requires.

The Director of the Census Bureau, Kenneth Prewitt, said last Wednesday he would abide by the Supreme Court ruling by using two sets of numbers in the Decennial Census. Recognizing part of the Court's decision, Prewitt plans to use enumeration for apportionment. However, the Census Bureau plans to create a second set of numbers, using sampling techniques, for redrawing House districts. Although they were not asked to rule on the constitutionality of sampling, four Justices said that using sampling for a census is illegal. But, the Administration continues to include sampling techniques in the Decennial Census, despite the contradictory rulings of several courts.

Mr. Speaker, this plan will only create more problems. Holding two censuses, which is exactly what the Bureau is doing by creating two figures, will double costs, lead to an increase in litigation with discrepancies over figures, and increase the chance that the census will not be done in a timely fashion. For the past six years, the Census Bureau was against a two-figure census for the very same reasons. This dual-track census is wrong, and they know it.

We in Congress have the responsibility to stand up for the American people. They do not want two versions of how many people live in our nation, and have to deal with the resulting confusion for ten years. I encourage my colleagues to consider this dual-track census plan as we consider releasing funding for the Commerce, State, and Justice Departments that is set to expire on June 15. This may be the last opportunity to put the Decennial Census back on track.

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act of 1999. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of, if not the top priority of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of their time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. I propose we go in a different direction by embracing true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful Representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over the ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By

providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act of 1999.

INTRODUCING THE GRATON RANCHERIA RESTORATION ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation that would restore federal recognition for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, which is primarily composed of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo tribal members. This is a matter of simple justice, because in 1966 the United States government terminated the tribe's status under the California Rancheria Act of 1958.

My bill, the Graton Rancheria Restoration Act, restores all federal rights and privileges to the tribal members. It reinstates their political status and makes them eligible for benefits now available to other federally recognized tribes, such as Native American health, education, and housing services. The bill also specifically prohibits gambling on tribal lands affected by the bill.

The earliest historical account of the Coast Miwok peoples, whose traditional homelands include Bodega, Tomales, Marshall in Marin County and Sebastopol in Sonoma County, dates back to 1579. Today there are 355 members of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

Legislation passed by Congress in 1992 and later amended in 1996, established an Advisory Council in California to study and report on the special circumstances facing tribes whose status had been terminated. The Council's final report, which was submitted to Congress in September 1997, recommended the restoration of the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria.

Mr. Speaker, the tribes of the Graton Rancheria are a rich part of the North Bay's cultural heritage. Terminating their status was wrong then, and it would be wrong now for us to continue to deny them the recognition that they deserve.

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